

## Dr. Lara Oyetunji Wins SBAS Dr. Claude H. Organ, Jr. Resident Award Competition



Congratulations to Dr. **Lara Oyetunji**, General Surgery Chief Resident, for winning the Dr. Claude H. Organ, Jr. Resident Award Competition from the **Society of Black Academic Surgeons (SBAS)** at its recently concluded meeting in April, 2016. Her winning paper was entitled “Cigarette Smoke Induces MicroRNA-145 Dysregulation

During Esophageal Carcinogenesis,” which included the results from her work as a research fellow at the National Cancer Institute from 2012–2014.

Dr. Oyetunji researched the role of tobacco smoke in esophageal cancer by using a novel in-vitro model system to examine microRNA alterations potentially contributing to tobacco-induced esophageal carcinogenesis. She then identified novel microRNAs that are dysregulated by cigarette smoke exposure and characterized the mechanisms by which these microRNAs and their targets drive esophageal adenocarcinogenesis in in-vitro and in-vivo models.

Claude H. Organ, Jr., MD, FACS (1926–2005) was a world renowned academic surgeon and a major force in shaping and supporting the lives and careers of thousands of young surgeons. In 1989, Dr. Organ and several other black academic surgeons founded SBAS and held its first meeting at Duke University. Throughout his career, he oversaw the training of dozens of surgeons, including several African-American women. His lifelong dedication to mentoring young surgeons and encouraging diversity in the field of surgery is represented in the annual Claude Organ, Jr. Resident Paper Competition.

Delos “Toby” Cosgrove, MD, President & CEO, Cleveland Clinic, committed funds from the Cleveland Clinic’s endowment for the prize. Starting in 2008 and continuing into the subsequent years, Cleveland Clinic’s sponsorship of the Claude Organ, Jr. Resident Paper Competition helps insure the success of the future generations of surgeons.

## Dr. Damien Carter Receives AAST Research & Education Scholarship



Congratulations to Dr. Damien Carter, recent graduate of the UW General Surgery Residency Program and 2015 UW Department of Surgery Critical Care Fellow, on being awarded the **American Association for the Surgery of Trauma (AAST)** Research and Education Scholarship for the 2016–2017 academic year. Dr. Carter, now

Assistant Professor of Surgery at Tufts University and Director of the **Maine Medical Center (MMC)** Burn & Wound Service, received the \$50,000 award for his research project titled “The role of mitochondrial DAMP’s in burn wound inflammatory signaling and vascular permeability.” He will investigate the mechanisms of DAMP (Damage associated molecular patterns) release from burn injured cells and their effect on vascular permeability and endothelial cell function. The aim is to identify potential therapeutic targets that could reduce tissue edema after burn injuries and improve survival in severe burn and inhalation injury.

Dr. Carter will receive formal recognition of his scholarship award during the AAST Business Meeting on September 16, 2016 in Waikoloa, HI. He will then present his findings at the 2017

AAST Annual Meeting in Baltimore, MD, during the scholarship presentation portion of the meeting.

The mission of the AAST is to serve as the premier scholarly organization for surgeons dedicated to the field of trauma and the care of critically ill surgical patients. AAST is dedicated to discovery, dissemination, implementation, and evaluation of knowledge related to acute care surgery (trauma, surgical critical care, and emergency general surgery) by fostering research, education, and professional development in an environment of fellowship and collegiality.

A major goal of the AAST is to provide research scholarships each year to young investigators to further trauma research and scholarships for Medical Students, Residents and In-Training Fellows to attend the AAST Annual Meetings. For more information, please visit [AAST’s scholarships page](#).